Proposal to privatise GoI Presses

*258. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to privatise three Government of India Text Book Printing Presses at Mysore, Bhubaneshwar and Chandigarh which were gifted to India by the Federal Republic of Germany under the UNESCO programme;

(b) whether the 133 year old Government of India Press at Shimla and the Government of India Forms Press at Kolkata are being given heavy doses of modernisation and kept out of privatisation programme; and

(c) whether apart from machinery gifted by Germany, the respective State Government had gifted free land to Presses at Mysore, Bhubaneshwar and Chandigarh and if so, whether gifted property and assets can be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India Press at Shimla is being modernized and converted into Production-cum-Training Centre at a cost of Rs. 2.19 crore. So far as Government of India Forms Store, Kolkata is concerned, no modernization programme has been approved and the same is proposed to be retained with condition that no further recruitment will be made.

(c) Lands for Government of India Text Book Presses at Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar were donated by respective State Governments free of cost and in respect of Text Book Press at Mysore, Land was alloted by the State Government on 99 years lease on a token rent of Re.1/- per annum. The Government has decided to privatize these Presses alongwith reasonable operational land area. Excess land available at these Presses is to be developed, if necessary, in collaboration with the State Government.

Increasing water crisis in Delhi

*259. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that acute water problem is increasing continuously in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that at present, demand of water for Delhi is about 900 million gallons per day (mgd). As against that, the total installed capacity for water treatment is of 650 mgd. However, by optimization of its plants, DJB is producing 675 mgd of potable water. Thus, there is a shorfall of 225 mgd.

(c) The DJB has taken up the following steps to bridge the gap between demand and supply of water in Delhi:—

(i) A 140 mgd Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been set up in Trans Yamuna Area at Sonia Vihar. Based on the raw water drawn from the storage of the Tehri Dam in Uttaranchal, the trial run of the plant has commenced;

(ii) A 40 mgd WTP has been set up at Nangloi. This plant is functioning at half of its capacity owing to raw water constraints. DJB is, therefore, pursuing with Government of Haryana to increase the supply of raw water for this plant;

(iii) Construction of parallel lined channel from Munak to Hyderpur WTP has been taken up to reduce water losses due to seepage. This will augment water supply for Hyderpur WTP; and

(iv) DJB has also taken up the works of recycling plants to treat backwash water and clarifloculator waste at Bhagirath (10 mgd capacity), Wazirabad (11 mgd capacity) and Hyderpur (16 mgd capacity) plants.

Funds allocated for the maintenance of National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

*260. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for repair and maintenance of National Highways in Himachal Pradesh during the last four years;